

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KHARTO 00722 070612Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----070615Z 052035 /20

R 061239Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3778  
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMCONSUL ASMARA  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T KHARTOUM 0722

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, ET, SU  
SUBJECT: NIMEIRI COMMENTS ON SITUATION IN ETHIOPIA

1. DURING RELAXED PRIVATE SESSION AT HIS HOME EVENING MARCH 5, NIMEIRI TOLD ME HE CONTINUES TO BE CONCERNED RE ETHIOPIAN SITUATION. HE CLAIMED THERE HAD RECENTLY BEEN MORE KILLINGS IN ADDIS WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS ENTIRELY CONTRARY BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS. MEANWHILE, EDU HAD MOUNTED MAJOR ATTACK FIVE DAYS AGO AGAINST METEMMA. BUILDINGS HAD BEEN SET FIRE BUT ATTACKERS HAD THEN WITHDRAWN TO AVOID POSSIBILITY EPMG RETALIATORY AIR STRIKES. NIMEIRI THOUGHT ETHIOPIANS REMAINING METEMMA LACKED FOOD AND SHELTER AND CANNOT EXPECT SIGNIFICANT NEW AIR DROPS. AS RESULT, THEY ARE NOW CONSIDERING SEEKING REFUGE IN SUDAN, WHILE SOME OF EPMG TROOPS MAY ELECT GO OVER TO EDU.

2. I RECALLED PRESIDENT HAD TOLD ME EARLY JANUARY THAT HE HAD BEEN WORKING TO UNIFY ERITREAN ELEMENTS AND ASKED RE STATUS. PRESIDENT RESPONDED THAT HE  
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HAD JUST SEEN ITEM IN HIS INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING REPORTING THAT THE "TWO SIDES" (PRESUMABLY ELF AND PLF) HAD AGREED TO REUNITE AS RESULT RECENT DISCUSSIONS INSIDE ERITREA. HE HAD MEANT TO ASK FOR DETAILS BUT HAD SO FAR BEEN TOO BUSY TO DO SO. NIMEIRI ADDED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD ERITREANS WERE BUSY ORGANIZING NEW ATTACK AGAINST ONE OR TWO OF FIVE

ERITREAN TOWNS REMAINING IN EPMG HANDS. THIS MIGHT  
EXPLAIN DELAY IN RECEIPT DETAILS KHARTOUM RE POSSIBLE  
UNIFICATION STEPS.

3. NIMEIRI WAS SHRPLY CRITICAL MENGISTU REGIME,  
CLAIMING SUDAN, AND HIMSELF PERSONALLY, HAD BECOME  
MAIN TARGET EPMG PROPAGANDA. I REMINDED HIM  
SUDANESE MEDIA HAD ALSO STEPPED UP ATTACKS VERSUS  
EPMG WHILE OMDURMAN RADIO NOW REPEAT NOW CARRYING  
BROADCASTS IN NAME ERITREAN GUERRILLA MOVEMENT.  
NIMEIRI READILY ADMITTED THIS WAS SO BUT CLAIMED  
THIS REPRESENTED REACTION TO HARD LINE INITIATED BY  
MENGISTU.

4. COMMENT. NIMEIRI'S COMMENTS SUGGEST THAT  
METEMMA HAS BEEN NEUTRALIZED AND LIKELY SOON TO  
BE ABANDONED. IF SO, THAT WILL LEAVE VIRTUALLY NO  
SIGNIFICANT INHABITED LOCALITY INSIDE ETHIOPIA  
UNDER EPMG CONTROL ON SUDAN/ETHIOPIAN BORDER FROM METEMMA NORTH  
TO RED SEA. SUCH DEVELOPMENT, PLUS REPORTED MOVE TOWARD UNITY  
ON PART TWO MAIN ERITREAN FACTIONS, COULD SPELL  
YET FURTHER DIFFICULTIES FOR HARD PRESSED ADDIS  
REGIME. BREWER

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PERSONAL OPINION, POLITICAL STABILITY, PROVINCE, PROPAGANDA, LIBERATION FRONTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 06-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1977KHARTO00722  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**SAS ID:** 3192573  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NIMEIRI COMMENTS ON SITUATION IN ETHIOPIA  
**TAGS:** PFOR, ET, SU, (NIMEIRI, JAFAR)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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